



## ACTESA has a huge role in agricultural development- Ngwenya



COMESA Secretary General, Sindiso Ngwenya (in picture) has emphasized the immense responsibility that ACTESA has, to implement agricultural programmes in the region.

Speaking at the opening of the COMESA Intergovernmental Committee (IC) meetings in Lusaka on November 29, Mr. Ngwenya said ACTESA had a huge task to carry out agricultural programmes in the region and was doing a commendable job in strengthening regional agricultural markets.

He added that ACTESA and other COMESA institutions were contributing significantly to regional integration.

Meanwhile, Phil Nervig, representing the US Ambassador to Zambia and special representative to

COMESA, at the COMESA Council of Ministers meeting in December, said ACTESA is a key institution in promoting agricultural development in the region.

He noted that the United States' support to ACTESA, aims to enhance regional markets for staple food and to harmonize regional agricultural biotechnology and bio-safety frameworks.

### ACTESA deepens collaboration with WFP and FAO

ACTESA has continued to deepen its collaboration with United Nations Agencies to develop agriculture in the region.

On December 7, 2010, the World Food Programme (WFP) signed an MOU with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), outlining the collaboration between ACTESA and WFP on providing support to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

As part of the agreement between ACTESA and WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P), a Senior Policy Advisor for markets and trade, Simon Dradri, has been seconded to ACTESA.

Mr. Dradri, who took up his position in Lusaka at the ACTESA Secretariat on November 1, 2010, will among other duties provide technical advice on policy forums on markets and policy development initiatives in the region.

The partnership will serve as a medium through which WFP will contribute to the objectives of ACTESA by increasing market access for small scale producers.



Dr. Muyunda with WFP Executive Director, Josette Sheeran

Further, ACTESA CEO, Dr. Cris Muyunda and Mr. Dradri attended the second Annual Review of WFP's P4P (29 November to 02 December 2010).

The workshop aimed to review progress in P4P implementation in 2010; share experiences across the 21 P4P countries; and identify best practices and key lessons.

It was opened by WFP Executive Director, Josette Sheeran and attended by some 150 delegates including WFP staff, farmer organizations, government officials, donors and other partners.

Meanwhile, Dr. Muyunda and ACTESA staff met with the

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### **ACTESA deepens collaboration with WFP and FAO**

Food Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Senior Policy Officer, from FAO Sub Regional Office, Harare, Dr. Perpetua Kalala on December 17, 2010 to discuss further collaboration in the agriculture sector.

Dr. Muyunda noted that ACTESA was already collaborating with FAO on weather index insurance in Zimbabwe and Malawi under the European Union funded COMESA Regional Agro- inputs Programme (COMRAP).

He proposed further collaboration with the FAO in the seed, fertilizer, irrigation and agricultural finance sectors.

Dr. Muyunda urged FAO to get actively involved with the ACTESA regional programmes in agricultural trade if FAO is to have permanent influence on what ACTESA is doing in the region.

### **ACTESA at the COMESA Council of Ministers meeting**

The Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA) attended the twenty-ninth COMESA Intergovernmental Committee (IC) meetings held on 3 and 4th December, and the Council of Ministers meeting on 6 December held in Lusaka, under the theme, "harnessing science and technology".

The ACTESA CEO, Dr. Cris Muyunda reported on:

□ ACTESA's initiatives in harmonizing biotechnology and bio-safety regulations in the region. He emphasized that the biotechnology agenda was the most befitting to the theme of the meeting.

□ ACTESA's support to the CAADP agenda in form of the agro-commodity marketing approaches that it is promoting in the region including, Warehouse Receipt Systems (WRS), Agricultural Commodity Exchanges, Purchase for Progress (P4P) and others.

□ The ongoing USAID supported Market Linkages Initiative (MLI) which, is promoting community commodity storage facilities in Malawi, Rwanda, Kenya, Burundi and Uganda. Member States were encouraged to assist in promoting the utilization of the services offered by the project by the small farmers so as to allow ACTESA to draw lessons for a bigger programme in future.

□ Food commodity trade, the meeting was informed that Cluster A (Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and DRC) market shed countries and Cluster B market shed countries (DRC, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) will hold their inaugural meetings to consider cluster agenda items and agree on priorities by August 2011.

The following recommendations were made by Council that:

□ Member States actively participate in the livestock, fisheries, honey, agro-linkages and seed marketing programmes that ACTESA is designing; and

□ Member States participate in the ongoing consultations on biotechnology and biosafety guidelines, and nominate participants for irrigation sector training activities.

### **ACTESA launches online M & E tool**

ACTESA attaches great importance to tracking progress and seeing results of its development interventions. It is in view of this that, ACTESA has within the broader framework of monitoring and evaluation launched an online Monitoring and Evaluation Tool of the programmes it is implementing and those implemented by its partners.

The tool is intended to ease data collection, storage, retrieval and analysis by ACTESA Programme managers and implementing partners. It will also facilitate internal learning among implementing partners.

In the formative stage, the tool is being used to capture data on the COMESA Regional Agro Inputs Programme (COMRAP).

The tool can be accessed on <http://www.survey.actesacomesa.org>.

Try out the demonstration exercise at <http://actesacomesa.webeng.org/dev/>.

For further information on the online M&E tool, please contact the M&E Expert, Casius Chuma, on [cchuma@actesacomesa.org](mailto:cchuma@actesacomesa.org).

### **ACTESA Events**

**COMRAP Variety Release Harmonisation Workshop: 17-19 January Nairobi, Kenya**

**COMRAP Seed Certification Harmonisation Technical Workshop: January 24-28, Nairobi, Kenya**

**ACTESA Partners' meeting: March 15-17, Lusaka, Zambia**

**AAMP Policy Seminar and Training Workshop on Smallholder Commercialisation: April 4-8, Rwanda**